

briefly ceded back to the French before it was sold to the U.S. Government during the Louisiana Purchase.

Today Arkansas Post National Memorial and Park is located in Arkansas County, AR. It was designated a National Memorial and National Historic Landmark in 1960 and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1966. The National Park Service manages over 650 acres of park land at the site, and there is a State-managed visitors center and museum featuring display of Arkansas Post's rich history. Arkansas Post is a must-visit for any Arkansan looking to get out and enjoy the rich history of our State—especially those interested in the Revolutionary War. I would like to thank the National Park Service for its commitment to maintaining this important part of Arkansas history.●

#### REMEMBERING HILLIARD FLETCHER

● Mr. SHELBY. Madam President, today I wish to honor the life of my friend Hilliard Fletcher of Tuscaloosa, AL, who passed away on March 13, 2016. He will be remembered as a skilled businessman, a devoted public servant, and a man who deeply cared about the city of Tuscaloosa.

A native of Mobile, Hilliard graduated from the University of Alabama in 1957. He went on to serve our country as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps and served for 14 years in the Reserves, retiring with the rank of major.

Hilliard was the president of Duckworth-Morris Insurance Company and also served with distinction four terms as finance and waterworks commissioner on the Tuscaloosa City Commission. During those 16 years, he played an instrumental role in the creation of the mayor-council model of municipal government that we know today. He was also influential in the efforts that led to Congress passing the Lake Tuscaloosa Protection Act, which prevented the Federal Government from installing a hydroelectric powerplant on Lake Tuscaloosa's dam in 1970.

In addition to his many years of service to the city of Tuscaloosa, Hilliard was a true leader in his community—serving on numerous boards and working with various charitable and business organizations. He served on the board of directors of First Alabama Bank, was the president of the United Way of West Alabama, and was president and director of the Exchange Club of Tuscaloosa. He also served as a board member and officer of the Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama, was a member of the board of directors and membership chairman of the YMCA of Tuscaloosa, and was the Chairman of the Heart Fund Drive. Hilliard was on the DCH Foundation Board, was director of the Alabama League of Municipalities, and was a deacon of First Presbyterian Church of Tuscaloosa.

Hilliard's many accomplishments, as well as his contributions to the city of

Tuscaloosa and West Alabama, will not be soon forgotten. Tuscaloosa named the city's wastewater treatment plant after him in 1998. The Community Foundation of West Alabama named him a "Pillar of West Alabama" in 2010 for his dedicated efforts and service to the area.

The city of Tuscaloosa and the State of Alabama were fortunate to have a leader and a great man like Hilliard Fletcher, and he will be sorely missed. I offer my deepest condolences to his wife, Betty; his daughter, Beth Lubin; and his sons, Douglas and Curtis, as they celebrate his many life accomplishments and mourn this great loss.●

#### TRIBUTE TO MANSOUR KARIM

● Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize Mansour Karim of Pierre, SD. Mr. Karim's life story is inspiring, and his contributions to his community and the State of South Dakota are worthy of commendation.

Born and raised in Tehran, Iran, to a poor family, Mr. Karim dreamed of moving to the United States to pursue his higher education. That dream became a reality in November of 1950, when Mr. Karim arrived at the Port of New York and New Jersey with a limited English vocabulary and only \$27 in his pocket. He had originally planned to attend the University of Michigan, but was worried that the growing Iranian immigrant population there would keep him from being immersed in the culture of the United States. He decided to study at Huron College in Huron, SD.

Mr. Karim's journey to South Dakota was challenged by the barriers of an unfamiliar nation, but he had his faith and was often helped by strangers along the way. He studied at Huron College for a year before transferring to South Dakota State College, now known as South Dakota State University, from which he graduated in 1955 with a degree in civil engineering. He would later receive his master's degree in engineering from the same school. Mr. Karim served 35 years with the South Dakota Department of Transportation in South Dakota's capital city of Pierre. Though a dedicated civil servant, he found his passion doing something he never could have done in his home country of Iran.

He invested in rental properties, starting modestly. Eventually, through hard work, wise investment, and trusted relationships, he achieved great success in providing affordable, quality rentals for residents in the Pierre area. Mr. Karim did not do this alone. His wife, Ruth, provided support to the enterprise as the two of them raised their seven children.

Ruth Karim cofounded South Dakota Right to Life and served as its executive director for 19 years. Prior to Ruth passing away in 2013, Mr. Karim worked with the Saint Mary's Foundation in Pierre to set up the Ruth Karim Endowment that would help nursing

students who value protecting the sanctity of life and fund their education at Ruth's alma mater, the University of South Dakota.

When looking back on his life, Mr. Karim is quick to recognize those who helped him move to South Dakota. He also remembers how, as a young child, he gave a beggar a penny, though he wished he had been able to give more. That giving nature has continued throughout his life, with Mr. Karim having given more than \$2 million to charities throughout South Dakota, with a focus on education and children's needs. He created the Mansour and Ruth Karim Scholarship Endowment in 2004 at South Dakota State University. Due to these charitable contributions Mr. Karim has been the recipient of many awards, including being named Pierre's Outstanding Philanthropist of the Year in 2011.

I, like the residents of Pierre and others across South Dakota, have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Karim. His passion for the United States and the freedoms it affords and his genuine care for his community is contagious. In conversations, Mr. Karim will often say that his experience could only be possible in the United States. His story is another real-life example of the American dream as reality and what makes our Nation great, to succeed and to give back, so that others may succeed.

It is for these reasons that I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Mr. Karim for his generous philanthropic work and thank him for making South Dakota his home.●

#### TRIBUTE TO SHUKRI JAMA

● Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize Shukri Jama, an intern in my Washington, DC, office for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Shukri is a graduate of South Sioux City High School in South Sioux City, NE. Currently, Shukri is attending the University of South Dakota, where she is majoring in political science and history. Shukri is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of her experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Shukri Jama for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

#### TRIBUTE TO ADAM KOST

● Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize Adam Kost, an intern in my Washington, DC, office for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Adam is a graduate of Roosevelt High School in Sioux Falls, SD. Currently, Adam is attending Augustana University, where he is majoring in government and international affairs. Adam is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of his experience.